

FISCAL NOTE

HB 895 - SB 826

March 6, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Allows certain local education agencies (LEAs) to apply for special hardship funding to be used exclusively for employment of additional school social workers. LEAs qualifying for these supplemental grants must meet all of the following conditions:
 - Consistently uses BEP funds to maintain at least one school social worker per 2,000 average daily membership;
 - Has a percentage of students receiving free or reduced price school lunch that ranks consistently and substantially above the statewide average;
 - Has a percentage of its schools on notice or probation that is consistently and substantially above the statewide average.
2. Provides that the State Board of Education may issue a grant for supplemental social worker positions; provided, however, when combined with BEP social worker funding, the number of the LEA's school social workers shall not exceed a ratio of one school social worker per 1,000 average daily membership. The provisions of the act shall only apply if federal or state funding is provided in any fiscal year for such purpose through the state's general appropriation act. In the event that applications exceed available funds, the State Board must prioritize grants to maximize school improvements toward meeting performance standards.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate assumes:

- A few systems will be able to meet the eligibility requirements set out by the bill. Therefore, to the extent these LEAs apply for such supplemental grant and state funds are available for this purpose, state expenditures are expected to increase by an amount exceeding \$100,000.
- To the extent several LEAs meet this criteria in the future, state expenditures are estimated to increase significantly.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director